

## United States Department of the Interior

## **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Pinedale Field Office P.O. Box 768 432 E. Mill Street Pinedale, WY 82941

In Reply Refer To: 1310 (100)

August 5, 2004

Re: Questar Exploration and Production Company Year-Round Drilling Proposal for the Pinedale Anticline

## Dear Reader:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the scoping period for the supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA), which will be tiered to the 2000 Pinedale Anticline Environmental Impact Statement, for Questar's Year-Round Drilling Proposal for the Pinedale Anticline will be extended until 4:45 p.m. on August 20, 2004. After the original scoping notice was sent, changes were made to the condensate pipeline alignment, and in order to capture any comments or concerns pertaining to those alignment changes, BLM is extending the original scoping period. There is no need to resend any comments previously submitted to the BLM for the proposal.

Attached is a revised map of the proposed alignment for the 104-mile condensate pipeline. In this proposal, Questar is applying for a right-of-way (ROW) grant to construct a 104-mile pipeline to transport condensate from the PAPA to Questar's Blacks Fork Plant located in NESW of Section 10, Township 18 North, Range 112 West. The proposed pipeline would cross two state highways, numerous roads, Union Pacific railroad tracks, potentially nine historic trails, and the New Fork, Green, Hams Fork, and Blacks Fork rivers. In addition, Questar would also construct a pipeline gathering system within the PAPA to transport the condensate to the 104-mile pipeline. These pipelines would all be buried and the surface reclaimed. The need for condensate storage on the well pads would be reduced with construction of the condensate pipeline and pipeline gathering system. Questar estimates that the condensate pipeline, together with a separate pipeline to remove produced water, would potentially eliminate more than 25,500 tanker truck trips annually within Questar's leases at peak production.

We invite you to review Questar's proposal for limited year-round drilling and a condensate pipeline and submit written comments. All issues submitted by mail or email will aid BLM in identifying alternatives and assuring all issues are analyzed in the supplemental EA. Your comments, questions or concerns are encouraged and welcomed. According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the purpose of the scoping process is to assist the federal agency in identifying issues and concerns with the proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7). The regulations further direct the federal agency to consider those issues and concerns as the alternatives to the Proposed Action are developed, and during the analysis of environmental impacts from the Proposed Action and alternative actions.

We ask that your comments be constructive, relate directly to this proposal and impending supplemental EA, that you be as specific as possible, and that you cite any data or other information that you believe would assist BLM in developing the most realistic range of alternative actions and the best-informed environmental impact analysis.

Although public opinions for or against a proposal are of interest, often they are not useful for developing alternatives or conducting the environmental impact analysis. Submitting opinions or preferences can be more helpful if accompanied by the data- or information-based rationale for that opinion or preference.

To be fully considered, comments <u>must be RECEIVED in the Pinedale BLM office (NOT be postmarked) by close of business (4:45pm) on August 20, 2004.</u> Written comments must be provided via mail or email or can be delivered to the BLM-Pinedale office at 432 E. Mill Street, Pinedale, Wyoming. <u>Faxes will not be accepted</u>. Please send your comments to:

Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Bureau of Land Management Pinedale Field Office P.O. Box 768 Pinedale, WY 82941

or

WYMail\_Questar\_Proposal@blm.gov

For more information, contact Carol Kruse at 307-367-5352 or at the above email address.

This notice has been sent to those individuals, industries, organizations, media, and federal, state, and local government entities who participated in the original NEPA process.

Sincerely,

/s/ Priscilla Mecham

Priscilla Mecham Field Manager

1 Attachment: Revised Condensate Pipeline Alignment Map